

Message Text

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14

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 DRC-01

/072 W

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R 290523Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8288

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E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, RP

SUBJ: CIVAIR: NEXT STEPS ON HOMECOMING FARE PROBLEM

REF: A) STATE 190897; B) MANILA 10902

1. DUE SUDDEN CHANGE AMB ROMUALDEZ PLANS, EMBASSY UNABLE DISCUSS SUBJECT FURTHER WITH HIM BEFORE HIS RETURN TO US. HE NOW EXPECTS REACH WASHINGTON AROUND OCT 5 AND WE UNDERSTAND WILL BE IN SAN FRANCISCO IN MEANTIME.

2. WE BELIEVE TALKING POINTS (REF B) ARE RECEIVING CONSIDERATION GOP, AND KNOW THESE POINTS HELPED DEFUSE SITUATION WITH ROMUALDEZ. WITHDRAWAL OF PAL FILING SUGGESTS PRESIDENT MARCOS WENT ALONG WITH ROMUALDEZ RECOMMENDATION THIS MATTER. WE ALSO THINK GOP MAY NOW BE PROCEEDING ON BASIS THAT CHARTER FARE ARRANGEMENTS PLUS HOMECOMING CERTIFICATE TO COVER COST OVER \$425 OFFER A SUFFICIENT HOMECOMING INDUCEMENT. WE DO NOT AT THE MOMENT, THEREFORE, SEE A HANDY PREMIS FOR FURTHER DIALOGUE WITH GOP.

3. WE BELIEVE, EVEN SO, THAT GOOD OPPORTUNITY NOW EXISTS FOR PANAM AND NORTHWEST TO TAKE INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT HOMECOMING WITH THEIR OWN PROPOSALS. AS WE SUGGESTED

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EARLIER (MANILA 10740), WE SEE THEIR TAKING SOME INITIATIVE

AS THE ONLY WAY IN WHICH THEY CAN DERIVE ANY IMMEDIATE
OR LONGER TERM ADVANTAGE FROM PRESENT SITUATION, INCLUDING
LIMITING THE HOMECOMING FARE IN DEFINITION OR DURATION.

4. WE UNDERSTAND FROM NORTHWEST MANAGER THAT NORTHWEST
PREPARING FILE SPECIAL FARE OF \$495 FOR GROUP OF TEN
LINKED TO HOMECOMING PROGRAM. THIS BEST POSSIBLE NEXT
STEP TO IMPROVE ATMOSPHERE AFTER DIFFICULTIES OVER PAL
FILING. IT WOULD NOW SEEM BEST TO SEE HOW THIS
INITIATIVE IS RECEIVED HERE BEFORE TAKING FURTHER ACTION.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION ON US CARRIERS'
PROPOSED FILINGS AND SCENARIO AS VIEWED FROM WASHINGTON.
SULLIVAN

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